Archaeological Survey of India immediately after the pre-historic rock-shelters at Bhimbetka were inscribed on the World Heritage List in June, 2003 the Forest Department of Government of Madhya Pradesh imposed entry-fee for foreign tourists at Rs.150 each as per the Wild Life Sanctuary Act to enter the Ratapani Wild Life Sanctuary which is part of the World Heritage Site.

Immediately the matter was taken up with the Government of Madhya Pradesh and a meeting was held between the officials of the Forest Department and the Archaeological Survey of India on 30-8-2003 and it was decided that Indian tourist should be charged Rs.2/- and foreign tourist should be charged Rs.10/- each. The decision to reduce the entry-fee is yet to be implemented by the State Government.

However, recently a complaint has been received by the field office from M/s Radiant Travels, Bhopal who arranged tour for the foreign tourists to Bhimbetka on 12-10-2003 regarding entry-fee @Rs.150/- charged by the Forest Department of Government of Madhya Pradesh to the tourist as well as vehicles.

Light and sound show at Charminar, Hyderabad

769. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to organise a sound and light show on the pattern of Golconda Fort at Charminar in Hyderabad to promote tourism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Central Department of Tourism sanctions the Central financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations under the following schemes:-

(1) Integrated development of travel circuits.

(2) Product Infrastructure and Destination development.

(3) Assistance for Large Revenue generating projects.

All State Govts./UT Administrations including Govt. of Andhra Pradesh have been requested to submit the project proposals under the above mentioned schemes for the financial year 2003-04.

No proposal for mounting sound and light show at Charminar has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Erosion of Vivekananda Rock Memorial

770. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Swami Vivekananda Rock Memorial set amidst the ocean off Kanyakumari is under threat from rapid erosion of the rocks upon which this monument is built;

(b) if so, the details of findings of any recent survey made to assess the impact of sea waves buffeting the rocks under the Memorial; and

(c) steps taken/being taken to preserve and conserve this magnificient monument?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The rock amidst sea where Swami Vivekananda meditated has been declared as monument of National Importance by a notification dated 27.08.2003. The threat of erosion because of sea waves has been taken note of and technical advice sought in the matter.

(c) The preservation, conservation, maintenance and development of Centrally protected monuments is an ongoing process.

Development of tourism sector in Rajasthan

†771. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of areas selected by Government for the development of tourism sector in Rajasthan during the current year; and

(b) the details of the outlines worked out by Government for the development of these areas?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The following projects have been sanctioned by the Department of Tourism in Rajasthan during the current financial year:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.